

Education

One of Placer County's most important resources is its education system. Through a network of public and private schools, the region benefits from a well-educated community and labor force. Local institutions offer programs for most undergraduate and graduate degrees, and several institutions specialize in services to assist the business community.

This section covers primary and secondary education, higher education, community colleges, public universities, private schools, technical schools, vocational training, and briefly outlines data related to educational attainment in Placer County.

Primary and Secondary Education

Figure 47 shows public school enrollment in school years 2001–2002 and 2002–2003 for Placer County's largest school districts, the Greater Sacramento Area, and California. Dry Creek Joint Elementary, followed by the Rocklin Unified, Roseville City Elementary, and Roseville Joint Union High school districts are the fastest growing school districts in Placer County. Only Tahoe-Truckee Joint Unified lost student enrollment within that same time period.

FIGURE 47
PUBLIC SCHOOL ENROLLMENT GRADES K THROUGH 12

<i>Area/School District</i>	<i>2001-02 School Year</i>	<i>2002-03 School Year</i>	<i>Percent Change 2002-2003</i>
Greater Sacramento Area	374,927	382,981	2.15%
California	6,147,375	6,244,403	1.58%
Placer County	58,228	60,716	4.27%
Largest School Districts			
Dry Creek Joint Elementary	5,629	6,386	13.45%
Eureka Union Elementary	4,169	4,243	1.78%
Placer Union High	4,673	4,706	0.71%
Rocklin Unified	7,899	8,615	9.06%
Roseville City Elementary	6,625	7,114	7.38%
Roseville Joint Union High	7,360	7,724	4.95%
Tahoe-Truckee Joint Unified	5,570	5,342	-4.09%
Western Placer Unified	7,040	7,280	3.41%

Sacramento Regional Research Institute, December 2003
Data Source: California Department of Education, Data Quest

EDUCATION

Figure 48 illustrates Kindergarten through 12th grade enrollment in Placer County by type of school in the 2002-2003 school year. Elementary schools have the highest enrollment followed by high and middle schools. The county's charter schools' enrollments are also fairly large at close to 10 percent.

FIGURE 48
TYPES OF SCHOOLS IN PLACER COUNTY
2002-03 SCHOOL YEAR

<i>School Type</i>	<i>Number of Schools</i>	<i>Enrollment</i>
Elementary	62	27,853
Middle	15	10,487
High	11	15,905
K-12	1	3,463
Alternative	5	1,630
Special Education	2	545
Continuation	7	644
Juvenile Court	1	82
Charter	7	6,732
Total	111	67,341

Sacramento Regional Research Institute, December 2003
Data Source: California Department of Education, Ed-Data

Figure 49 shows 2001 Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) scores for Placer County, school districts within Placer County, the Greater Sacramento Area, and California. Placer County's commitment to quality education results in consistently high levels of accomplishment for area students. The region's students have regularly outscored or performed similar to California students as a whole on the SAT. The average math score for public school students in Placer County was 536 for the 2001-2002 school year. The average verbal score for Placer County students was 518—24 points above the California average and 14 points above the Greater Sacramento Area average. The highest overall scores on the SAT were in the Placer Union High and Roseville Joint Union High districts.

EDUCATION

FIGURE 49
AVERAGE SAT SCORES FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS
2002-03 SCHOOL YEAR

<i>Area/School District</i>	<i>Number Tested</i>	<i>Percent Tested</i>	<i>Average Verbal Score</i>	<i>Average Math Score</i>	<i>Average Combined Score</i>
California	141,468	36.7%	494	518	1012
Greater Sacramento Area*	8,154	30.8%	504	523	1027
Placer County	1,604	34.3%	518	536	1054
Largest School Districts					
Placer Union High	405	36.7%	527	535	1062
Rocklin Unified	231	42.9%	511	541	1052
Roseville Joint Union High	729	38.7%	518	540	1058
Tahoe-Truckee Joint Unified	179	36.0%	505	527	1032
Western Placer Unified	60	34.7%	525	518	1043

Sacramento Regional Research Institute, December 2003

Data Source: California Department of Education, Data Quest

*Note: The average verbal, math, and combined scores are an average of the six counties.

Figure 50 shows the American College Test (ACT) average composite scores for Placer County, school districts within Placer County, the Greater Sacramento Area, and the state for the 2002-2003 school year. ACT scores range from 1 as a low to 36 as the high. In Placer County, the average composite score was 23.2. This score is almost between one to two points higher than the Greater Sacramento Area (21.8) and the state (21.3). Further, Placer County's average composite score was above the national average of 20.8 in 2003. The highest average composite scores were in the Rocklin Unified and Placer Union high districts.

EDUCATION

FIGURE 50
AVERAGE ACT SCORES FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS
2002-03 SCHOOL YEAR

<i>Area/School District</i>	<i>Number Tested</i>	<i>Percent Tested</i>	<i>Average**</i>
			<i>Composite Score</i>
California	37,324	9.7%	21.3
Greater Sacramento Area*	2,794	10.6%	21.8
Placer County	527	11.3%	23.2
Largest School Districts			
Placer Union High	119	10.1%	23.5
Rocklin Unified	106	19.7%	23.8
Roseville Joint Union High	200	10.6%	23.0
Tahoe-Truckee Joint Unified	90	18.1%	22.2
Western Placer Unified	12	2.3%	23.0

Sacramento Regional Research Institute, December 2003

Data Source: California Department of Education, Data Quest

*The average composite score is the average of the six counties.

Figure 51 illustrates the number of public high school graduates that met the course requirements to qualify for entrance into the University of California (UC) and California State University (CSU) systems. These schools require some courses beyond the California graduation requirements including four years of English, three years of mathematics, three years of social science, two years of science, one year of visual and performing arts, two years of a foreign language, and one additional elective. In the 2001-2002 academic year, about 38 percent of the graduating seniors in Placer County met these course requirements. This is about three percent higher than the Greater Sacramento Area and the state. The greatest proportion of students with these qualifications was in the Tahoe-Truckee Joint Unified district. The rate of growth between 2001 and 2002 in graduates with entrance requirements in Placer County is higher than the state. The Roseville Joint Union district experienced relatively large growth in graduates with UC and CSU requirements with a nearly 26 percent growth rate between 2001 and 2002.

EDUCATION

FIGURE 51
PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES WITH UC AND CSU ENTRANCE
COURSES

<i>Area/School District</i>	<i>Graduates with Req. 2000-01</i>	<i>Percent of Graduates 2000-01</i>	<i>Graduates with Req. 2001-02</i>	<i>Percent of Graduates 2001-02</i>	<i>Percent Change 2001-2002</i>
California	112,469	35.6%	112,934	34.6%	0.4%
Greater Sacramento Area	6,318	30.6%	7,430	34.9%	17.6%
Placer County	1,367	35.4%	1,490	37.8%	9.0%
Largest School Districts					
Placer Union High	383	39.6%	392	41.9%	2.3%
Rocklin Unified	198	48.3%	195	43.7%	-1.5%
Roseville Joint Union High	541	32.4%	679	42.8%	25.5%
Tahoe-Truckee Joint Unified	195	52.8%	173	45.6%	-11.3%
Western Placer Unified	45	10.3%	50	8.6%	11.1%

Sacramento Regional Research Institute, December 2003
 Data Source: California Department of Education, Data Quest

Figure 52 illustrates student performance in Placer County's eight largest schools districts compared to the California Statewide Academic Performance Index (API) performance target. The statewide target score of 800 has been adopted by the State Board of Education and reflects a high level of performance that schools should strive to meet. As the following table demonstrates, several school districts in Placer scored well above or close to the stated API target. The school districts that scored below the performance target have all improved their API scores between 2002 and 2003.

FIGURE 52
PLACER COUNTY API PERFORMANCE
LARGEST SCHOOL DISTRICTS

<i>School District</i>	<i>Weighted Average API 2002</i>	<i>Weighted Average API 2003</i>
California Performance Target	800	800
Eureka Union Elementary	846	859
Rocklin Unified	795	806
Dry Creek Joint Elementary	799	811
Roseville City Elementary	770	805
Placer Union High	709	716
Tahoe-Truckee Joint Unified	715	730
Roseville Joint Union High	702	724
Western Placer Unified	680	693

Sacramento Regional Research Institute, December 2003

Data Source: California Department of Education, 2002-2003 API Growth Report

Higher Education

Higher education is available from a variety of institutions throughout the area. In addition to the University of California, Davis (UCD) and California State Universities, Sacramento and Chico (CSUS and CSUC), five community colleges, numerous vocational schools, professional schools, and local campuses of colleges headquartered elsewhere in the state provide services to meet the educational needs of local business and the community. Additionally, within a three-hour distance from Placer County, the University of California, Berkeley and Stanford University provide an accessible supply of well-educated graduates. Figure 53 presents selected academic institutions in the immediate Sacramento area.

FIGURE 53
UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES IN THE IMMEDIATE SACRAMENTO AREA



Sacramento Regional Research Institute, December 2003

Source: Sacramento Area Commerce and Trade Organization, Sacramento Vicinity Map

This variety of higher education has been a strong attraction of the region, especially for knowledge and information intensive industries like electronics and biotechnology. With a local education network to tap, firms such as NEC and Hewlett-Packard have been able to recruit employees within the area and, in conjunction with local colleges, design specific courses to the companies' requirements.

EDUCATION

Figure 54 lists the enrollment of some higher educational institutions in northern California as well as the enrollment growth rates between 2002 and 2003.

FIGURE 54
HIGHER EDUCATION ENROLLMENT

<i>School</i>	<i>2001-2002 Academic Year</i>	<i>2002-2003 Academic Year</i>	<i>Percent Change 2002-2003</i>
Community College Districts			
Sierra	18,771	20,073	6.9%
Los Rios	69,390	72,191	4.0%
Yuba	10,793	10,695	-0.9%
Public Universities			
CSU, Sacramento	26,923	28,558	6.1%
CSU, Chico	16,704	16,246	-2.7%
UC, Davis	27,292	29,087	6.6%
Private Schools			
Chapman	9,370	13,227	41.2%
Golden Gate University	4,843	4,415	-8.8%
Lincoln Law School	250	250	0.0%
McGeorge School of Law	950	1,045	10.0%
National University	18,267	17,865	-2.2%
University of San Francisco	8,063	8,194	1.6%
USC-Sacramento Center	143	149	4.2%

Sacramento Regional Research Institute, December 2003
 Data Source: California Postsecondary Education Commission
 Los Rios Community College District
 Lincoln Law School
 McGeorge School of Law
 USC-Sacramento Center

Community Colleges

Sierra Community College District

For over half a century, the 240-acre Sierra College campus has offered general education and technical courses. The main campus is located off Interstate 80 in Rocklin. Other facilities include a 105-acre Sierra Nevada County Campus in Grass Valley and a center in Roseville. These campuses offer day, evening, and weekend classes and are administered by the Sierra Community College District. Sierra has a national reputation based on excellence in such academic areas as computer science, mathematics, computer integrated electronics, nursing, and early childhood education. Sierra offers Associate of Arts and Associate in Science degrees, along with technical training and certificates in over 70 areas and career fields. In addition, Sierra College offers the first two years of

pre-professional programs including Medicine, Law, Engineering, Computer Science, Education, and Business Administration.

Sierra College was one of 76 schools in the nation chosen to participate in IBM's Higher Education Alliance Program. The program assists students in learning computer-aided design, electronics and manufacturing.

To benefit area firms, Sierra College offers assistance through their Small Business Assistance Center and the Center for Applied Competitive Technologies (CACT). CACT specializes in combining computer-aided design and manufacturing to supply training and instruction to businesses in this particular industry. The college also provides on-site training and retraining to industry through its Contract Education Program.

Los Rios Community College District

The Los Rios Community College District has over 70,000 students enrolled at American River College, Cosumnes River College, Sacramento City College, Cosumnes River Education Center in Placerville, Folsom Lake Center in Folsom and El Dorado Center in Placerville. Los Rios is one of the fastest growing community college districts in the state and is ranked near the top in the state for transferring students to the UC and CSU systems. The Los Rios colleges also offer more than 76 career education programs including such high growth career fields as nursing and health, computer information science, hazardous materials management, biotechnology, electronics, and business. The district also operates The Training Source, a division that provides custom-designed training in such areas as electronics, computer science, supervision, management, and total quality management, as well as the Greater Sacramento Small Business Development Center and the Center for International Trade Development.

Yuba Community College District

The Yuba Community College District has been providing residents of Yuba and Sutter Counties with high-quality education for almost 75 years. Yuba College's main campus is located in Marysville, with other campuses located in Woodland (Woodland Community College) and Lake County as well as centers in Colusa and on Beale Air Force Base. Yuba College is geographically the second largest community college district in the state. Its enrollment has grown to over 10,000 students throughout the sprawling 4,192 square mile district. Yuba College students who transfer to the UC system and the CSU system have a higher grade point average (GPA) than the average transfer student. The facility is among the finest in the state for lower division college course work.

Public Universities

The Greater Sacramento Area has three major public universities—California State University, Sacramento (CSUS), California State University, Chico (CSUC), and University of California, Davis (UCD).

California State University, Sacramento

California State University, Sacramento—which was the site of the U.S. Olympic track and field trials in July 2000 and is located only five miles from California's capitol—is a major university in the state and the nation. Founded in 1947, the University has completed over one-half century of service. Approximately 28,000 students are enrolled at CSUS, and more than 70 nations are represented. CSUS's academic programs are organized into eight schools: Arts & Letters, Business Administration, Continuing Education, Engineering & Computer Sciences, Health & Human Services, Education, Natural Sciences and Mathematics, Social Sciences and Interdisciplinary Studies. CSUS students earn degrees in more than 60 undergraduate degree programs and 40 graduate programs. The university is continuing an ambitious expansion and remodeling of facilities, which has brought more than one million square feet of new classroom and laboratory space. A carefully structured Strategic Plan is in place to help the campus enter the 21st century as a regional leader in higher education and economic development.

The Business Administration major is the largest undergraduate and Teacher Education is the largest graduate program at CSUS. Computer Science, Engineering, Economics, Biological Sciences, and Communication Studies also draw large numbers of students. Programs which specialize in graduate education include Business, Education, and Public Policy and Administration.

More than 30 research and service centers are associated with the university. In addition, CSUS has focused on extension and continuing education programs to accommodate the business community's changing needs. The continuing education curriculum includes Computer Science, Business Management, Marketing, and Accounting courses.

California State University, Chico

Located 86 miles north-west of Auburn, California State University, Chico is another major public university that provides educational services for Placer County residents. Founded in 1887, the university is the second oldest California State University campus, known for its picturesque views, beautiful architecture, and a cozy, college town atmosphere. CSUC provides excellent educational opportunities and is committed to developing a high quality learning environment. The university's graduation rate continuously ranks as one of the highest in the CSU system and its graduates are among the most heavily recruited by major corporations on the West Coast. Its success is partly

explained by its relatively low student-to-faculty ratio of 20 to 1, which allows a more personalized style of instruction.

The university total enrollment is approximately 16,000 students who come from 43 different states and 63 nations. CSU, Chico comprises nine colleges, which include Agriculture, Behavioral and Social Sciences, Business, Communication and Education, Engineering, Computer Science and Technology, Humanities and Fine Arts, Natural Sciences, the School of Graduate, International, and Sponsored Programs and Regional and Continuing Education. The university offers 70 undergraduate degree programs with 188 options for major and concentration combinations. Business, Liberal Studies and Undecided, represent the largest programs. The university's Psychology program is the following largest enrollment category. CSUC is considered to be one of the leaders in distance education, having offered over 880 courses in 40 disciplines to students in the United States and abroad.

CSUC is also proud of its commitment to community service through organizations like Community Action Volunteers in Education and Students in Free Enterprise that promote and oversee student involvement in community activities and projects.

University of California, Davis

When the University Farm opened its gates in the early 20th century, it consisted of 778 acres of rich agricultural land. Today, nearly a century later, the University of California, Davis campus has grown to more than 5,000 acres, dozens of buildings, house laboratories, performance spaces, classrooms and libraries. The 29,087 students study under the guidance of scores of faculty whose expertise ranges from molecular biology to modern dance. An acknowledged international leader in Agricultural, Biological, Biotechnological and Environmental Sciences, UCD is gaining similar recognition for excellence in the Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences, Health Sciences, Law, and Management. In 2003, University of California, Davis ranked number 11 among the top public universities nationally by *U.S. News & World Report*. The campus is one of only 63 members of the prestigious Association of American Universities, whose members are selected by invitation only. UCD offers 110 undergraduate majors and 70 graduate programs in the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Letters and Science, and Engineering and four professional schools: Medicine, Veterinary Medicine, Law and Management. Over the next ten years, the campus will grow both in enrollment and in new facilities totaling about one billion dollars, including laboratories, classrooms, and student facilities. The UCD Center for the Arts (Mondavi Center), opened in the fall of 2002, and houses a 1,800-seat state-of-the-art performance hall and a 250-seat studio theater and provides performance space unrivalled outside the San Francisco Bay Area.

UC Davis Extension offers over 3,500 courses for more than 80,000 students each year. Course offerings include traditional classroom courses open to the public—many of them are offered in Sacramento—as well as online courses and customized on-site training for employers.

The UC Davis Health System includes a 528-bed teaching hospital in Sacramento, a medical school and a network of primary care physician practices and affiliated community hospitals in Northern California communities. The system operates the region's only Level 1 trauma center, a comprehensive cancer center, a children's hospital, transplant services, an Alzheimer's center, an institute for neurodevelopment disorders, and a burn center.

Private Schools

Numerous branches of private colleges headquartered outside the Greater Sacramento Area support the region. National University primarily serves working adults with its intensive one course per month evening format in Management, Technology, Psychology, and Education. The university has approximately 1,200 students in Sacramento.

Smaller institutions include the University of San Francisco, which offers programs in Organizational Studies, Public Administration, Health Services Administration, and Counseling.

The University of Southern California's Sacramento Center for the School of Policy, Planning and Development has been offering nationally accredited Master's Degrees for over 25 years. It offers degrees in Public Administration, Health Administration and Planning and Development Studies. Classes are taught in small seminars with 10-20 students.

Golden Gate University, founded in 1853, is the fourth largest private university in California. The Sacramento campus offers undergraduate and graduate programs in Business, Technology, Taxation, Public Administration and Healthcare Management. The 1,500 working adult student population enjoys convenient, skill-building classes.

Chapman University offers Bachelor's and Master's Degrees, as well as teaching credentials and extended education. This liberal arts university has an approximately 770 student enrollment per term in the Sacramento Valley.

The University of the Pacific's McGeorge School of Law is a recognized leader in the field of legal education. McGeorge seeks to educate practice-ready graduates through its required curriculum and opportunities for practical experience in clinical and internship settings. A specialized curriculum at the school leads to a Certificate in Governmental Affairs awarded concurrently with the Juris Doctorate Degree.

Also located nearby is the Lincoln Law School of Sacramento. Lincoln Law School is fully accredited by the Committee of Bar Examiners of the State Bar of California and serves about 250 students.

William Jessup University, formerly San Jose Christian College, will officially relocate its main campus from San Jose to Rocklin in 2004. The university will prepare its Christian students for leadership and service in church and society by focusing on theological higher education.

Bachelor's and Master's Degrees, and other programs of higher education are offered through several private schools, some of which are mentioned above. A partial list of these institutions also appears below:

- Chapman University
- Golden Gate University
- Lincoln Law School
- McGeorge School of Law
- National University
- University of Phoenix
- University of San Francisco
- University of Southern California

Technical Schools and Vocational Training

In addition to the comprehensive instruction given at area community colleges, specific technical training is available at more than 100 trade and vocational schools in the Greater Sacramento Area. The Sacramento County Office of Education operates Regional Occupational Programs that regularly train high school students and adults for careers as electronic technicians, computer programmers, woodworkers, welders, automotive technicians, metal workers and graphic arts personnel. Traditional vocational school programs include Computer Operations and Programming, Accounting, Secretarial, Medical Office, Legal Office and Electronics. Also, many vocational schools are approved to offer both diplomas and degree programs.

The best known schools offering vocational education are the Heald Business Colleges, ITT Technical Institute (which offers Associate of Science and Bachelor of Science Degrees), MTI College of Business Technology, Western Career College, and the National Education Center (Sawyer Campus).

Educational Attainment

Figure 55 demonstrates changes that have occurred in the educational attainment patterns in Placer County between 1990 and 2000. The table illustrates a dramatic, almost 94 percent, increase in the attainment of Bachelor's and higher level degrees, and a significant growth of 55 percent in the number of Associate Degrees and other college level instruction received by Placer County residents (these numbers do not account for a 45 percent population growth in the county). At the same time, the number of lesser-educated people has significantly fallen from 26 percent to 21 percent in the high school

EDUCATION

level education category and from 15 to 9.5 percent in the less than high school level category. Overall, Placer County represents a more educated community compared to the Greater Sacramento Area and the state of California in general. Sixty-nine percent of Placer County's population has received instruction beyond high school level, compared to 61 and 57 percent in the Greater Sacramento Area and California, respectively. The number of Placer residents with Bachelor's and higher level degrees is also significantly higher at over 30 percent, compared to 25.6 percent in the Greater Sacramento Area and 26.6 percent in California.

FIGURE 55
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

<i>Educational Attainment Categories</i>	1990		2000		<i>Percent Change 1990-2000</i>
	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percent</i>	
California					
Population 25 years and over	18,695,499	100.0%	21,298,900	100.0%	13.9%
Less than high school graduate	4,450,528	23.8%	4,942,743	23.2%	11.1%
High school graduate (incl. equivalency)	4,167,897	22.3%	4,288,452	20.1%	2.9%
Some college or associate degree	5,710,400	30.5%	6,397,739	30.0%	12.0%
Bachelor's degree or higher	4,366,674	23.4%	5,669,966	26.6%	29.8%
Greater Sacramento Area					
Population 25 years and over	1,015,288	100.0%	1,223,128	100.0%	20.5%
Less than high school graduate	185,082	18.2%	199,068	16.3%	7.6%
High school graduate (incl. equivalency)	248,743	24.5%	275,227	22.5%	10.6%
Some college or associate degree	352,236	34.7%	435,384	35.6%	23.6%
Bachelor's degree or higher	229,227	22.6%	313,449	25.6%	36.7%
Placer County					
Population 25 years and over	114,422	100.0%	165,894	100.0%	45.0%
Less than high school graduate	17,006	14.9%	15,835	9.5%	-6.9%
High school graduate (incl. equivalency)	29,751	26.0%	35,327	21.3%	18.7%
Some college or associate degree	41,725	36.5%	64,506	38.9%	54.6%
Bachelor's degree or higher	25,940	22.7%	50,226	30.3%	93.6%

Sacramento Regional Research Institute, December 2003
Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 & 2000 Census